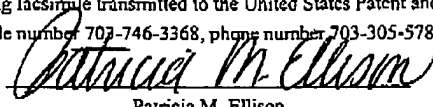


#13/B
ABPATENT
Docket No. 509192000220

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on May 16, 2003, to the attention of Examiner A. Farah, via telefacsimile number 703-746-3368, phone number 703-305-5787.



Patricia M. Ellison

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Russell A. HOUSER, et al

Serial No.: 09/898,726

Filing Date: July 3, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR
TREATING TISSUE

Examiner: A. Farah

Group Art Unit: 3739

AFTER FINAL

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GROUP 3700

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in further response to the Final Office Action dated February 26, 2003 (Paper No. 12), for which a response was due on May 26, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

pa-789162

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